The role of Eurostat

berthold.feldmann@ec.europa.eu

Eurostat
Structure of the talk

1. The tasks of Eurostat
2. Available regional and urban statistics
3. The usage of the data
4. Future challenges
Chapter 1
Eurostat

- is the statistical office of the European Communities
- is part of the Commission (a Directorate General)
- is located in Luxembourg
- employs around 700 permanent staff
- “collects” nearly all of its data from the National Statistical Offices in the Member States and candidate countries
- has as its mission “to provide the European Union with a high-quality statistical information service”
Tasks in the domain of regional information (1)

- Regular **collection** of regional data from National Statistical Offices
- Estimation of missing data
- Development of appropriate **methodology**
- Help statistical offices of candidate countries to develop the required set of urban and regional data
Tasks in the domain of regional information (2)

- Administer the European regional classification NUTS
- Satisfy (ad-hoc) user needs
- Make users **aware** of the available information through adequate dissemination
- **Give advice** to Commission colleagues (namely DG REGIO) on the proper use and interpretation of regional and urban statistics
Chapter 2

The availability of statistics
Some key regional statistics

- **regional accounts**
  - gross domestic product
  - compensation of employees
  - household accounts

- **regional social statistics**
  - employment rates (male – female)
  - unemployment rates (male – female)

- **Regional demography**
  - population (gender, age groups,...)
The “Urban Audit” data collection

- 333 variables collected, covering all aspects of economic and social life
- 258 EU cities involved
  - 189 cities in EU-15
  - plus 69 new MS (and RO and BG) cities
- Data collection for three different spatial units
- In addition: perception survey in 31 cities of old MS, January 2004
Spatial units of the Urban Audit

**Core city** *(administrative unit)*
- Commune / Municipality / Ward / Gemeinde
- Corresponds to the empowerment of the city administration

**Larger Urban Zone (LUZ)**
- Industrial development, infrastructure, environmental impact, commuting, new residential areas

**Sub-city districts**
- “…information on intra city disparities indispensable for further political action”
- “…pinpoint major disparities in terms of social cohesion”
The topics covered

1. **DEMOGRAPHY**
   - 1.1 Population
   - 1.2 Nationality
   - 1.3 Household Structure

2. **SOCIAL ASPECTS**
   - 2.1 Housing
   - 2.2 Health
   - 2.3 Crime

3. **ECONOMIC ASPECTS**
   - 3.1 Labour Market
   - 3.2 Economic Activity
   - 3.3 Income disparities and Poverty

4. **CIVIC INVOLVEMENT**
   - 4.1 Civic Involvement
   - 4.2 Local Administration

5. **TRAINING AND EDUCATION**
   - 5.1 Education and Training (Provision)
   - 5.2 Attainment of Educ. & Training

6. **ENVIRONMENT**
   - 6.1 Climate/ Geography
   - 6.2 Air Quality and Noise
   - 6.3 Water
   - 6.4 Waste Management
   - 6.5 Land Use
   - 6.6 Energy Use

7. **TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT**

8. **INFORMATION SOCIETY**

9. **CULTURE AND RECREATION**
   - 9.1 Culture and Recreation
   - 9.2 Tourism
SCORUS conference in Wroclaw 2006

Data Flow of Regional and Urban Statistics

National Statistical Office

Source 1
Source 2
Source 3
Source 4
Source 5
Source 6
Source 7

Thematic production db
production db

Public dissemination
Web site

Thematic production db
Thematic production db
Thematic production db
Thematic production db
Thematic production db
Thematic production db

13/17

National level

Eurostat

Regional statistics
Chapter 3

The use of our data
The use of urban and regional data in Europe

- Urban and regional data is used in order to **assess policy measures** at all levels: European (EU), national, regional, city level.

- Urban and regional statistics are used **prior to a political decision**, helping the decision makers to optimise their conclusions.

- The same data set is also used **ex-post**, in order to **assess** the success or failure of policy decisions.
Use or misuse?

- It is Eurostat’s task to **give advice** on the proper use of regional and urban statistics in the political context.

- Our advice is however not always well received.

- **Quality** is essential for statistics that are used for political purposes:
  - Comparable data
  - Unbiased, objective quantitative information

- Eurostat depends on the close cooperation with national statistical offices:
  - This sometimes proves to be difficult.
Thank you for your attention!

Any Questions?